

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An oral-delivery composition for use in treating HCV in a HCV-infected patient comprising ovine IFN- τ , in a dosage effective to stimulate bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase relative to bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase prior to treatment.
2. (Currently Amended) The oral-delivery composition of claim 1, which ~~further~~ comprises an oral-delivery vehicle containing IFN- τ , wherein said oral-delivery vehicle is effective to release the IFN- τ in active form in the digestive tract.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the vehicle is effective to release ovine IFN- τ in the stomach or intestines.
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4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is between $10^8 - 10^{10}$ Units/day Units.
5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 1×10^8 Units/day Units.
6. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 2×10^8 Units/day Units.
7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 4×10^8 Units/day Units.
8. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 1×10^9 Units/day Units.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 4×10^9 Units/day Units.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 7×10^9 Units/day Units.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is formulated to avoid ~~avoids~~ the *tunica mucosa oris*.

12. (Cancelled)

B | 13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HCV comprising:

ovine IFN- τ as an effective ingredient, wherein said composition is formulated to avoid ~~avoids~~ the absorption of ovine IFN- τ through the *tunica mucosa oris*.

14. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hepatitis caused by HCV comprising ovine IFN- τ as an effective ingredient.

15. (Original) A 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase activity inducer in animals other than sheep comprising ovine IFN- τ .

16-17. (Cancelled)